

**Catalogue of American Amphibians and
Reptiles 922**

Powell, R. 2019. *Leiocephalus personatus*.

***Leiocephalus personatus* Cope
Hispaniolan Masked Curly-tailed Lizard**

Liocephalus personatus Cope 1862:182. Type locality, “Hayti (near Jeremie)” (= near Jérémie, Département de la Grand’Anse, Haiti). Syntypes, Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) R-3615 (see **Remarks**), two adults (one male and one female) “sent in a valuable collection made by Dr. D. F. Weinland to Prof. Agassiz,” date unknown (not examined by author).

Liocephalus trigeminatus Cope 1862:183. Type locality, “Hayti (near Jeremie)” (= near Jérémie, Département de la Grand’Anse, Haiti). Syntypes, “Dr. Weinland’s Coll.

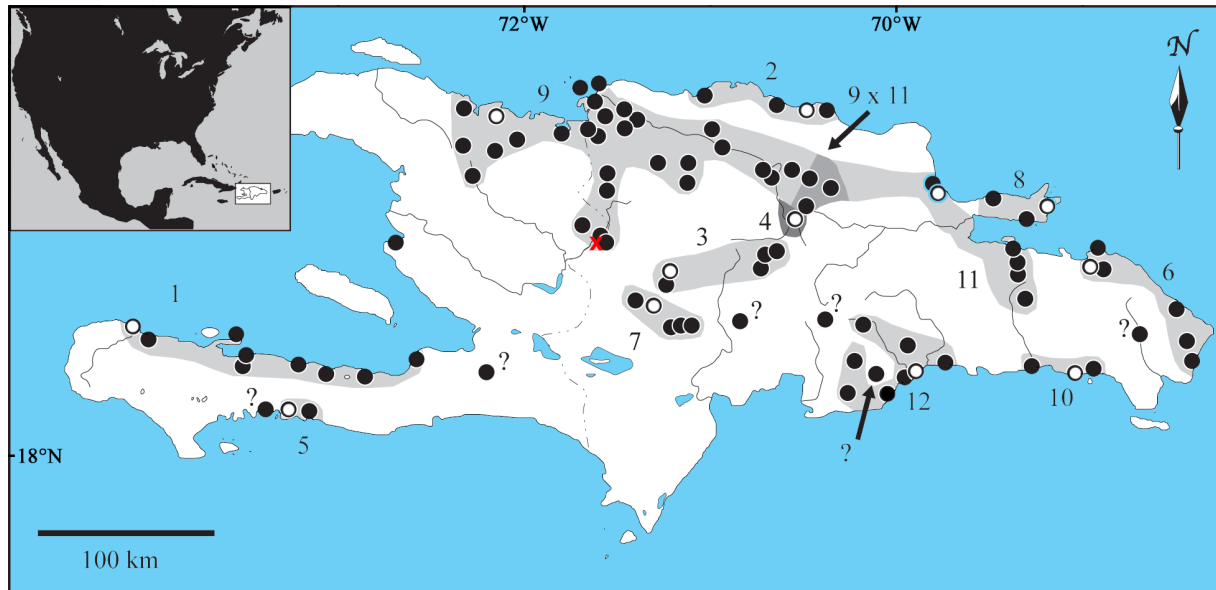
in Mus. Compar. Zool.” (Museum of Comparative Zoology; MCZ), date unknown. Cannot be located (e.g., Barbour 1914; Pregill 1992; Schwartz and Thomas 1975). Synonymy *fide* Boulenger (1885), although attributed to Cochran (1941, 2005) by Pregill (1992); see also **Remarks**.

Leiocephalus personatus: Barbour 1914:302.

CONTENT. Twelve subspecies are currently recognized: *Leiocephalus personatus actites*, *Leiocephalus personatus agraulus*, *Leiocephalus personatus budeni*, *Leiocephalus personatus elattoprosopon*, *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*, *Leiocephalus personatus personatus*, *Leiocephalus personatus poikilometes*, *Leiocephalus personatus pyrrholaemus*, *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris*, *Leiocephalus personatus socoensis*, *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes*, and *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* (see **Remarks**).



FIGURE 1. Adult male *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* from Cabo San Rafael, La Altagracia Province, Dominican Republic. Photograph by Miguel A. Landestoy.



MAP. Map of Hispaniola showing the distribution of *Leiocephalus personatus*; open circles indicate type localities, black dots mark other known records (some proximate localities are indicated by single dots), the red **X** marks a fossil locality, and question marks indicate records of specimens not assigned to subspecies. Numbers refer to subspecies and correspond to the numbers of the subspecific accounts: 1 – *Leiocephalus personatus personatus*; 2 – *Leiocephalus personatus actites*; 3 – *Leiocephalus personatus agraulus*; 4 – *Leiocephalus personatus budeni*; 5 – *Leiocephalus personatus elattoprosopon*; 6 – *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*; 7 – *Leiocephalus personatus poikilometes*; 8 – *Leiocephalus personatus pyrrholaemus*; 9 – *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris*; 10 – *Leiocephalus personatus socoensis*; 11 – *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes*; 12 – *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis*. Modified from Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

DESCRIPTION. *Leiocephalus personatus* is a moderately sized member of the genus (maximum snout–vent length [SVL] in males is 86 mm, maximum SVL in females is 63 mm; Schwartz 1967). An estimated maximum SVL of 90 mm was mistakenly reported for *Leiocephalus personatus* by Olson (1990); however, based on cited locality data, the species measured was *Leiocephalus melanochlorus*. Estimated female SVL at maturity is 42.5 mm (Gifford and Powell 2007). Lateral folds are absent (Schwartz and Henderson 1991). Dorsal scales are imbricate, weakly tricuspid to denticulate, and keeled. Ventral scales are imbricate, weakly denticulate, and smooth. Median dorsal crest scales are enlarged, greatly attenuate, strongly overlapping, much lower than median dorsal caudal scales, and number 41–64 in occiput–vent distance; one-half midbody scales number 18–28. Head

scales include 6 (usually) supraoculars, 2–17 loreals, and 7–14 temporals; median head scales number 4–6 (mode 4), frontoparietals 3–5 (mode varies by subspecies), supraorbital semicircles usually complete, and parietals are almost always in contact. Males have a pair of enlarged postcloacal scales.

Sexual dichromatism is evident (Schwartz and Henderson 1991). Throat color in males varies from solid black to immaculate yellow with a contrasting black mental scale; males in some subspecies might bear a few scattered and diffuse dusky spots but are never heavily, regularly, and discretely spotted. Throats of females have distinct black to dark gray spots. Males have no ventral pattern, whereas the ventral surfaces of females are heavily dotted with black to dark gray spots. Males have a dark brown to black facial mask, but no black neck or shoulder patches; the dorsum can be dark brown, reddish-brown dotted with

yellow, light brown, tan, tan flecked with gold, grayish-tan, sandy, practically black, tan to dark brown and often flecked or mottled with yellow or brick-red, and sometimes with tan, creamy, or sandy dorsolateral lines; transverse neck bars are present or absent, at times reduced to a series of black median dots on enlarged middorsal scales; flanks usually tan to brown with admixed red, green, and cream scales; the hindlimbs usually some shade of green; the forelimbs tan; the venter some shade of green; the tail brown above (often chevronate) and orange below. The facial mask of females often is reduced to a dark-edged temporal triangle; the dorsum is brown, with or without complete chevrons; flanks are tan with dark brown vertical bars; pale dorsolateral and lateral lines are prominent; the venter can be dirty yellow, white, pale green, or opalescent; the limbs are brown; the underside of the tail is yellow-orange to bright orange or pink.

DIAGNOSIS. *Leiocephalus personatus* can be distinguished from all Hispaniolan congeners using the following characteristics (Henderson and Schwartz 1984; Henderson et al. 1984; Köhler et al. 2016): *Leiocephalus melanochlorus*, *Leiocephalus schreibersii*, and *Leiocephalus sixtoi* are relatively large (male SVL of first two species to >100 mm and that of the third to 88 mm) and have distinct lateral folds and lateral scales conspicuously smaller than dorsal scales (*Leiocephalus personatus* is smaller, lacks prominent lateral folds, and lateral scales only slightly smaller than dorsal scales); *Leiocephalus pratensis* lacks a regular row of middorsal scales (present in *Leiocephalus personatus*); preauricular scales of *Leiocephalus barahonensis* and *Leiocephalus semilineatus* are much larger than adjacent temporal scales (preauricular scales of *Leiocephalus personatus* are not enlarged when compared to adjacent temporal scales); dorsal crest scales of *Leiocephalus rhutidira* and *Leiocephalus vinculum* are not attenuate or strongly overlapping (attenuate and strongly overlapping in *Leiocephalus personatus*); and



FIGURE 2. Adult female *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* from near Juanillo, La Altagracia Province, Dominican Republic. Photograph by Robert Powell.

Leiocephalus lunatus lacks a facial mask, male throats have discrete dots, female throats have faint gray dots, and a neck blotch is present (*Leiocephalus personatus* has a facial mask, male throats solid black to patternless or with few diffuse spots, female throats heavily patterned with dark gray spots, and a neck blotch is absent).

PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS. *Leiocephalus barahonensis*, *Leiocephalus lunatus*, *Leiocephalus personatus*, *Leiocephalus semilineatus*, and *Leiocephalus vinculum* were hypothesized to form the *Leiocephalus personatus* group (Schwartz 1967), but a study based on 39 morphological characters provided little support for this hypothesis (Pregill 1992). Two alternative tree topologies and a consensus tree were presented by Pregill (1992), all of which showed *Leiocephalus personatus* in a clade that included *Leiocephalus lunatus* of Hispaniola, *Leiocephalus loxogrammus* of the Bahamas, and *Leiocephalus raviceps* of Cuba, all within a larger clade comprised mainly of Hispaniolan species (*Leiocephalus barahonensis*, *Leiocephalus lunatus*, *Leiocephalus personatus*, *Leiocephalus pratensis*, *Leiocephalus*



FIGURE 3. Adult female *Leiocephalus personatus pyrrholaemus* from Frontón, Samaná Province, Dominican Republic. Photograph by Miguel A. Landestoy.

rhutidira, *Leiocephalus semilineatus*) but also including three Cuban species (*Leiocephalus cubensis*, *Leiocephalus raviceps*, *Leiocephalus stictigaster*) in addition to a single Bahamian species (*Leiocephalus loxogrammus*).

Based on albumin immunological methods, lizards in the genus *Leiocephalus* represent a relatively recent radiation, with the oldest divergences within the genus occurring less than 10 mya (Hass et al. 2001). Immunological distance (ID) values of Hispaniolan species (including *Leiocephalus personatus*) ranged from 0 to 4 (*Leiocephalus personatus* had an ID of 1 to *Leiocephalus schreibersii*, which was within the ± 2 ID-unit error range of the technique).

Leiocephalus personatus was the sister species of *Leiocephalus lunatus* within a Hispaniolan clade that also included *Leiocephalus barahonensis*, *Leiocephalus schreibersii*, and *Leiocephalus semilineatus*, but distinct from a Cuban clade that included *Leiocephalus carinatus*, *Leiocephalus macropus*, *Leiocephalus raviceps*, and *Leiocephalus stictogaster* (Gifford 2008). A subsequent report demonstrated *Leiocephalus personatus* was most closely related to *Leiocephalus psammmodromus*, but only six species were included in that study (Pyron et al. 2013).

CONSERVATION STATUS. Because this species is widely distributed, abundant, and not declining fast enough to qualify for a more threatened category, *Leiocephalus personatus* is listed as being of Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Incháustegui and Landestoy 2016).

PUBLISHED DESCRIPTIONS. In addition to the original descriptions (Cochran 1932; Cope 1862; Gali and Schwartz 1982; Gali et al. 1988; Mertens 1939a; Schwartz 1967, 1969, 1971), detailed descriptions were provided by Cochran (1941, 2005) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991). A list of morphological (including skeletal), meristic, and pattern characters were published by Pregill (1992).

ILLUSTRATIONS. Color photographs of adult males were published by Bartlett and Bartlett (2009), Drewes (2012 [in captivity]), Dollinger (2019), EOL (2019), Graff and Bringsøe (1996), Hedges (2018), Henderson (2001), Henkel and Schmidt (2007, 2010), Landestoy and Ortíz (2015), Matsumoto (1996), Powell et al. (1996), Purser (2008), Uchiyama (1995), and Wikipedia contributors (2019). Color photographs of males, females, and juveniles were published by Rogner (1997b). Color photographs of males and

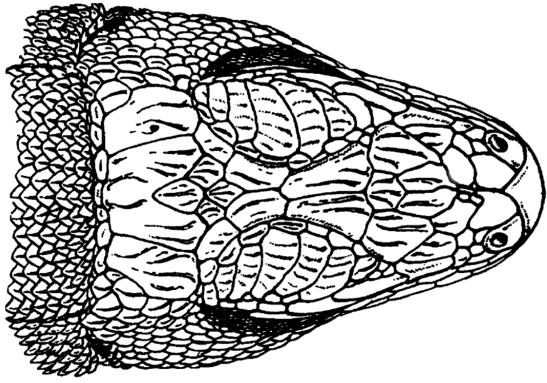


FIGURE 4. Top of the head of an adult male *Leiocephalus personatus* (AMNH 16155). From Schmidt (1921a).

females were provided by Ackermann (2006), Dahms Tierleben (2018 [in captivity]), Herrmann (1994 [in captivity]), Hoffman (2005), Landestoy and Reyes (2018), Rey (2017 [unlabeled *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*]); color photographs of juveniles were published by Herrmann (1994). An unlabeled color photograph of *Leiocephalus personatus carinatus* by Flank (1998). Photographs of male and female *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* were provided by Sánchez Muñoz (2019). Color photographs of adult male *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* from Florida were published by Bartlett and Bartlett (2006 [near the Miami International Airport], 2011 [adult male]) and Krysko et al. (2011; Key Biscayne); an additional color photograph of an adult male *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* without locality information was published by Bech and Kaden (1990). All images of MCZ and Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (USNM) type specimens of *Leiocephalus personatus* were published by EOL (2019).

The color photographs labeled “*Leiocephalus personatus*” by Obst et al. (1984, 1988) and Rogner (1992a, 1997a) are *Leiocephalus schreibersii*; one of two color photographs labeled “Bunter Masakenleguan (*Leiocephalus personatus*)” [sic] by Dollinger (2019) is *Leiocephalus schreibersii*. The color photograph labeled *Leiocephalus schreibersii*

published by Henkel and Schmidt (2007) is *Leiocephalus personatus*.

Black-and-white photographs of *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* (including the holotype), *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*, and *Leiocephalus personatus pulcherrimus* (= *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris*) were provided by Mertens (1939a). The same photographs of the habitat at the type locality of *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* and of male and female *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* were published by Mertens (1940a, 1940b). A photograph of an adult male *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* from Cayo Monte Chico (Cayos Siete Hermanos) was presented by Burns et al. (1992). Photographs of an adult male and an adult female *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* were published by Powell (2002); the photograph of the female also was published by Powell (2003). A photograph of an adult female *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* from Haiti was presented by Klingelhöffer (1957), though this taxon is not known from that country. Photographs of natural habitats were published by Gifford et al. (2008). Photographs of an adult pair (undetermined subspecies) were presented by Spycher (1984) and one photograph of an adult male (undetermined subspecies) was published by Reiprich (2009).

Black-and-white illustrations include a drawing of the top of the head of American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 16155 provided by Schmidt (1921a), a drawing published by Kästle (1972b, 1986), and line drawings of dorsal head scalation and black-and-white illustrations of color patterns of *Leiocephalus personatus personatus*, *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris*, and *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* published by Cochran (1941, 2005). The posterior end of the dentary was illustrated by Pregill (1992). Drawings of the auricular opening and preauricular scale, lateral and dorsal views of median dorsal crest scales, lateral views of the head and neck of male *Leiocephalus personatus personatus* and *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*, and ventral views of the throats

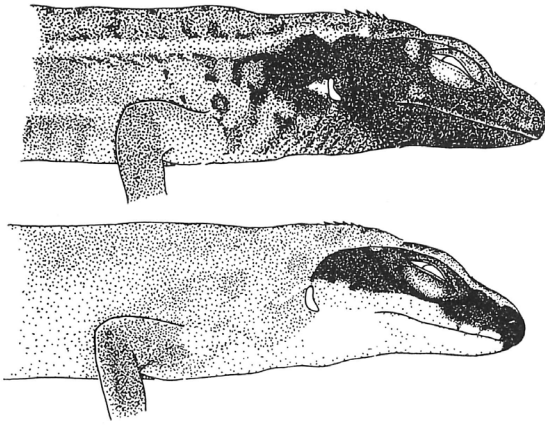


FIGURE 5. Lateral views of the head and neck of an adult male *Leiocephalus personatus personatus* (MCZ 74636) from Roseaux, Département du Sud, Haiti (top) and of an adult male *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* (MCZ 75131) from Juanillo, La Romana Province, Dominican Republic. From Schwartz (1967). Illustration reproduced with permission granted by Editor of Tulane Studies in Zoology and Botany.

of male *Leiocephalus personatus personatus*, *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis*, *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes*, *Leiocephalus personatus actites*, and *Leiocephalus personatus budeni* were presented by Schwartz (1967). Drawings of the dorsum, lateral view of the head, teeth, and diagrammatic dorsal, ventral, and lateral (head only) patterns published by Olson (1990) actually were images of *Leiocephalus melanochlorus*.

DISTRIBUTION. *Leiocephalus personatus* has an extensive but largely disjunct distribution across much of Hispaniola (including several satellite islands), ranging along the northern and southern shores of the Tiburon Peninsula (including Grosse Caye and Île-à-Vache) in southwestern Haiti, northern Haiti eastward along the northern coast (including the Cayo Monte Chico [Cayos Siete Hermanos] and Isla Cabras) into the extreme southeastern Dominican Republic, along parts of the southern Dominican coast, and with extensions or isolated pockets toward the center of the island. The species

is absent only from extremely high elevations (elevational range: sea level to ~625 m), the extremely xeric Valle de Neiba and Cul-de-Sac Plain, and the Barahona Peninsula (Henderson and Powell 2009; Schwartz 1967; Schwartz and Henderson 1991).

In general, the species occurs in mesic habitats; if in drier areas, it usually is restricted to the most densely shaded situations (Schwartz and Henderson 1991). These lizards readily exploit both natural and human-modified (agricultural and urban) habitats, although the species apparently avoids exposed situations like beaches (Burns et al. 1992; Henderson and Powell 2009).

Introduced populations assigned to *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* have been documented in Miami-Dade County, Florida (Bartlett 1994; Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, 2006; Butterfield et al. 1997; Kraus 2009; Krysko et al. 2010, 2011, 2019; Lever 2003; Powell et al. 1998, 2012, 2019). Populations established during the 1970s apparently were extirpated in the 1980s, but became reestablished in the mid-1990s when imports for the pet trade were resumed (Bartlett and Bartlett 1999). Although individual lizards were documented (Krysko et al. 2010, 2011 [photograph included in Krysko et al. 2011]) on Key Biscayne in 2004, additional lizards were not found subsequently at that site; also, no lizards were found during surveys at the Miami International Airport (Meshaka et al. 2004), supporting the contention whether “these current populations will actually become truly established is questionable” (Bartlett and Bartlett 1999:187) Although listed on some websites that focus on introduced species (e.g., Ferriter et al. 2008; FWC 2018, 2019), the species was not listed in recent publications (e.g., Meshaka 2011; Powell et al. 2016) or listed as questionable or problematic (Powell et al. 2012, 2019; Krysko et al. 2019), and the Florida populations that were at best tenuously established are presumed extirpated.

The native range was illustrated previously by Cochran (1941, 2005), Dollinger (2019),

Hedges (2018), Schwartz (1967), and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

FOSSIL RECORD. Late Pleistocene fossils from the Cerro de San Francisco (Elías Piña Province), Dominican Republic, were assigned to *Leiocephalus personatus* (Etheridge 1965).

PERTINENT LITERATURE. Topics addressed in the literature include (note that references listing species of *Leiocephalus* formerly considered subspecies of *Leiocephalus personatus* [see **Remarks**] are not cited): **original descriptions** (Cochran 1932; Cope 1862; Gali and Schwartz 1982; Gali et al. 1988; Mertens 1939a; Schwartz 1967, 1969, 1971), **apparent failed introductions in Florida** (Bartlett 1994; Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, 2006, 2011; Butterfield et al. 1997; Ferriter et al. 2008; FWC 2018, 2019; Kraus 2009; Krysko et al. 2010, 2011, 2019; Lever 2003; Meshaka et al. 2004; Powell et

al. 1998, 2012, 2019; van Wilgen et al. 2009), **captive husbandry** (Anonymous 1991; Bech and Kaden 1990; Bindler and Duchene 2009; Dollinger 2019; Drewes 2007, 2012; Flower 1929; Frommer 1984; Graff and Bringsøe 1996; Herrmann 1994; Hoffman 2005; Kästle 1972b, 1986; Klingelhöffer 1957; Purser 2008; Rogner 1992a, 1995, 1997a, 2005; Spycher 1984), **diseases in captivity** (Bauwens et al. 2014; Gaigg 2008; Peters 1978 [quoted in Petzold 1982, 1984, 2008], Rossier et al. 2016), **endoparasites** (Duszynski et al. 2008; Huntington and Cisper 1994), **extinction risk** (Incháustegui and Landestoy 2016), **fossil record** (Etheridge 1964, 1965, 1966c), **longevity in captivity** (Slavens 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988; Slavens and Slavens 1991; Snider and Bowler 1992), **morphology, performance, anti-predator behavior** (Gifford et al. 2008; Schwartz 1979; Wassersug et al. 2005a, 2005b), **natural history** (Gifford and Powell 2007; Henderson and Powell 2009; Henderson et al. 1987a, 1987b, 1988;

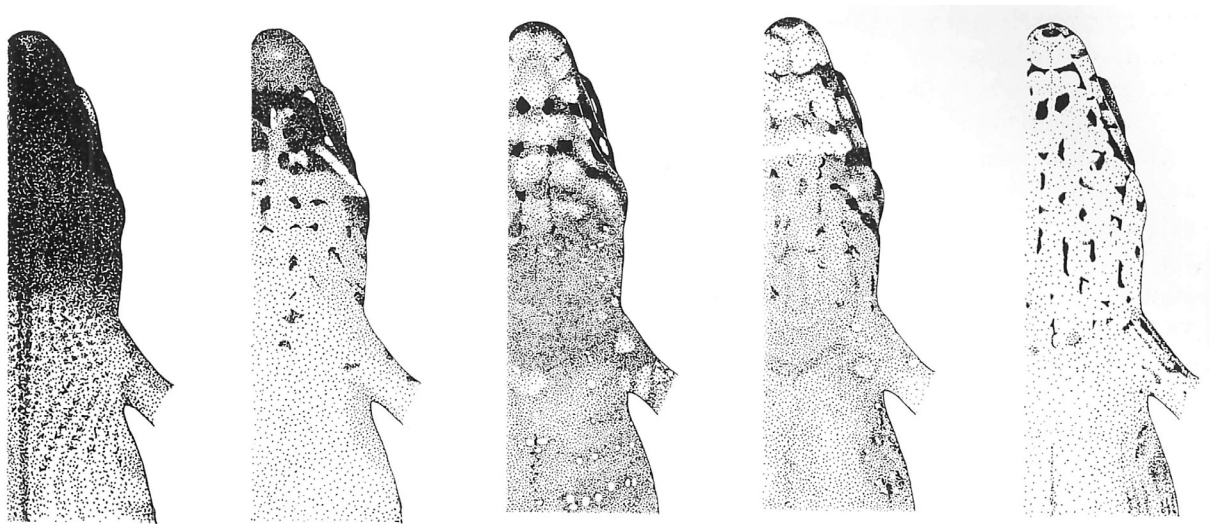


FIGURE 6. Ventral views of the throats of adult male *Leiocephalus personatus* (from left to right): *Leiocephalus personatus personatus* (MCZ 74636) from Roseaux, Département du Sud, Haiti; *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* (ASFS X7734; now KU 244449) from Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic; *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes* (MCZ 81087, holotype) from 6 km SE Nagua, María Trinidad Province, Dominican Republic; *Leiocephalus personatus actites* (MCZ 81088, holotype) from Sosúa, Puerto Plata Province, Dominican Republic; and *Leiocephalus personatus budeni* (MCZ 81089, holotype) from 12 km NE Jarabacoa, 2000 feet [= 610 m], La Vega Province, Dominican Republic. From Schwartz (1967). Illustration reproduced with permission granted by Editor of Tulane Studies in Zoology and Botany.



FIGURE 7. An adult male *Leiocephalus personatus actites* from Estero Hondo, Puerto Plata Province, Dominican Republic. Photograph by Miguel A. Landestoy.

Kästle 1971, 1972a, 1984; Mertens 1940b; Schwartz and Henderson 1991), **pet trade** (Anonymous 1980; Araújo 2014; Bartlett and Bartlett 1997; Huikeshoven 2010; Shiao et al. 2006), **phylogeography** (Gifford 2005, 2008), **systematics** (Pregill 1992), and **broad, mostly phylogenetic studies in which *Leiocephalus personatus* was used as an outgroup** (Harvey and Gutberlet 2000; MacLeod et al. 2016; Matos et al. 2016; Mello 2014; Okajima and Kumazawa 2009, 2010; Olmo 1981, 1984; Pyron et al. 2013; Schulte 2013; Schulte et al. 2003; Streicher et al. 2016; Wiens 1993; Yu et al. 2017).

Leiocephalus personatus also has been included in **checklists, keys, general works, articles focusing on other species, or faunal accounts (some including brief descriptions)**: Alfonso (2016), Alfonso et al. (2012), Anonymous (1991), Arment (2005), Barbour (1914, 1930, 1935, 1937), Barbour and Loveridge (1929, 1946), Bauer et al. (2012), Bergmann (2008), Böhme (1983), Böker (1939), Boulenger (1885), Burns et al. (1992), Christman (1974), Cochran (1924, 1928, 1934a, 1934b, 1941, 1953, 1961, 2005), Cope (1868, 1887), Crombie (1970), Dlugolecki et al. (2015), EOL (2019), Etheridge (1966a, 1966b, 2000), Felix (1988),

Fotolulu (2018), Frank and Ramus (1995), Franz and Cordier (1986), Friedl et al. (1988), Garman (1887), Hedges (2018), Hedges et al. (2019), Heino (2004), Henderson and Schwartz (1984), Henderson et al. (1984), Henkel and Schmidt (2007, 2010), Hernández (2013), Herter (1960), Hutchins et al. (2003), iNaturalist (2019), Jes (2006), Kästle (1972b, 1986), Kluge (1984), Köhler et al. (2016), Landestoy and Ortiz (2015), Liner (1997, 1999), MacLean et al. (1977), Mertens (1938, 1939b, 1940a, 1946, 1967, 1969), Midtgaard (2019), NCBI (2018), Nelson and Powell (2002), Noble and Bradley (1933), Nolan (1913), Obst et al. (1984, 1988), Olson (1990, 1995 [although cited locality data indicate that he had examined *Leiocephalus melanochlorus* instead of *Leiocephalus personatus*]), Petzold (1982, 1984, 2008), Petzold et al. (1970), Powell (1993, 1999a, 1999b, 2002, 2003, 2012), Powell and Gifford (2010), Powell and Henderson (2008), Powell et al. (1996, 1998, 1999, 2012, 2019), Purser (2008), Reiprich (2009), Rey (2017), Rogner (1997b), Sánchez Muñoz (2019), Schmidt (1921a, 1921b), Schwartz (1965, 1968, 1980), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), Schwartz et al. (1978), SEA/DVS (1990, 1992), Seligmann

and Labra (2013), K. Smith (2006, 2009), M. Smith (1929), Uchiyama (1995), Uetz et al. (2017), Wikipedia contributors (2019), and Wrobel (2004).

Many additional websites (e.g., Dahms Tierleben 2018; Rey 2017; Sánchez Muñoz 2019) provide information on *Leiocephalus personatus*; most deal with husbandry, but some provide photographs or descriptions and many address some aspects of natural history. Unfortunately, some of those sites (e.g., Dollinger 2019; Exotic-Pets.co.uk 2018) mistakenly illustrate *Leiocephalus schreibersii*.

REMARKS. Cope (1862) described *Liocephalus personatus* and *Liocephalus trigeminatus* on consecutive pages, listing the same geographic origin for both. Cope (1868:122) provided a key to species of *Liocephalus* with one option leading to both species; an appended annotation stated: “The last two are much alike in structural features, but differ greatly in coloration; they do not appear to be sexes of the same animal, as I have seen both ♂ and ♀ of the latter.” However, as noted by Barbour (1914), Cope (1887:438) stated: “The *L. trigeminatus* is probably the immature stage of *L. personatus*, with which Dr. Boulenger properly unites it.”

Two specimens (MCZ R-3615 and MCZ R-168525) are listed as syntypes of *Leiocephalus personatus*, the latter of which

was assigned the newer catalog number in 1985 (J. Rosado, in litt., 23 January 2017). The annotations by Schwartz and Henderson (1991) and Uetz et al. (2019) that the syntypes of *Leiocephalus personatus* had been lost were obviously in error and might have been mistaken references to the unlocated syntypes of *Leiocephalus trigeminatus*.

At various times, a number of congeneric Hispaniolan taxa have been considered subspecies of *Leiocephalus personatus* (e.g., Schwartz 1965) and are so listed in many publications (e.g., Cochran 1941, 1961, 2005; Etheridge 1966c; Mertens 1938, 1939a, 1939b): *Leiocephalus altavelensis*, *Leiocephalus barahonensis*, *Leiocephalus barahonensis aureus*, *Leiocephalus barahonensis beatanus*, *Leiocephalus eremitus* (Mertens 1939a, by inference), *Leiocephalus lunatus*, *Leiocephalus lunatus arenicolor*, *Leiocephalus lunatus louisae* (also noted by Henderson and Powell 2004), *Leiocephalus semilineatus*, and *Leiocephalus vinculum*. *Leiocephalus barahonensis*, *Leiocephalus lunatus*, *Leiocephalus personatus*, *Leiocephalus semilineatus*, and *Leiocephalus vinculum* constituted the hypothesized *Leiocephalus personatus* group (Schwartz 1967; but see **Phylogenetic Relationships**).

Cochran (1941, 2005) listed “*Leiocephalus personatus* Garman ... (part)” in the synonymy of *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*;



FIGURE 8. Adult male *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* from Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic. Photograph by Miguel A. Landestoy (from Landestoy and Reyes 2018).



FIGURE 9. An adult male *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* from Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County, Florida (11 October 2004). Photograph by Joseph P. Burgess.

however, the cited locality (Puerto Plata) is in the range of *Leiocephalus personatus actites* Schwartz. Schwartz and Thomas (1975) and Schwartz and Henderson (1988) indicated that specimens from San Cristóbal (San Cristóbal Province) seem not to be referable to *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis*, and also noted that a specimen from St.-Marc, Département de l'Artibonite, Haiti was "left unassigned subspecifically." *Leiocephalus personatus* was included by Powell (1993) among species with a broad insular range and numerous distributional records of uncertain systematic status; he concluded that data were insufficient to draw conclusions regarding the possible specific status of taxa currently identified as subspecies. Pregill (1992:49) remarked: "*Leiocephalus personatus* is an especially variable species, as demonstrated by the numerous populations given subspecific designation, and in the character discordance noted above [in his account of the species]. A more detailed examination of this widespread Hispaniolan taxon is warranted."

ETYMOLOGY. Although not stated by Cope (1862), the specific epithet evidently is derived from the Latin *personatus* (= masked; Brown 1956), an obvious allusion to the dark facial mask of this species. The subspecific epithet *actites* is from the Greek *aktites* (= shore dweller; Brown 1956), undoubtedly a reference to the fact that the distribution of the subspecies "is restricted to the coastline of a single province in northern República Dominicana" (Schwartz 1967:16). The subspecific epithet *agraulus* is from the Greek *agraulos* (= dwelling in the field; Brown 1956), almost certainly a reference to the fact that "natives" indicated that "the lizards had been collected under rocks in a large open meadow, studded with a few pines, and partly under cultivation" (Schwartz 1967:23). The subspecific epithet *budeni* is a patronym honoring D. W. Buden, co-collector of the holotype. The subspecific epithet *elattoprosopon* is from the Greek *elaton* (= less) and *prosopon* (= face, mask), a reference to the reduced dark mask in this subspecies when compared to

Leiocephalus personatus personatus (Gali et al. 1988). Although not stated by Cochran (1932:178) and although *mentalis* is from the Latin (= of the mind; Brown 1956), the subspecific epithet *mentalis* appears to be a reference to the unusual pattern of the chin and throat of males (“mental shield and lower lips of adult males sepia, remainder of throat pale china blue, immaculate or with a few minor pale-brown spots confined mostly to single scales”). The subspecific epithet *poikilometes* “is Greek for ‘full of various wiles,’ an allusion to the difficulty encountered in securing these lizards” (Schwartz 1969:85). Although not stated by Schwartz (1971), the subspecific epithet *pyrrholaemus* is from the Greek *pyrrho* (= flame-colored) and *laimos* (= throat; Brown 1956), certainly an allusion to the deep orange throat of these lizards. Although not stated by Cochran (1932), the subspecific epithet *scalaris* is from the Latin (= of a ladder; Brown 1956), possibly a reference to the prominent nuchal crest scales of males. The subspecific epithet *socoensis* “is derived from the name of one of the localities (Boca del Soco)” where this subspecies is known to occur (Gali and Schwartz 1982:179). The subspecific epithet *tarachodes* presumably is from the Greek *taraktor* (= disturber; Brown 1956), but the meaning is uncertain and Schwartz (1967) did not provide an explanation. Although not stated by Mertens (1939a), the subspecific epithet *trujilloensis* (originally spelled “*trujilloënsis*”) certainly is a reference to the type locality, Ciudad Trujillo (= Santo Domingo).

ADDITIONAL VERNACULAR NAMES.

English common names include (note that lists of references are not intended to be complete): Haitian Curlytail Lizard (e.g., Frank and Ramus 1995; FWC 2019; Incháustegui and Landestoy 2016; Uetz et al. 2019; Wrobel 2004), Hispaniolan Masked Curlytail (Hedges 2018, Hedges et al. 2019), West Indian Masked Lizard (Smith 1929), Green-legged Curly-tail and Jewelled Curly-tail (Wikipedia contributors 2019), Green-legged Curly-

tailed Lizard (Arment 2005; Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, 2006; Lever 2003), Green-legged Curlytail Lizard (FWC 2018), Jewelled Curly-tailed Lizard (Bauwens et al. 2014), Masked Curlytail (Obst et al. 1988), and various other variations variously hyphenated or curtailed (i.e., jeweled vs. jewelled; curlytail or curlytail lizard vs. curly-tailed lizard).

In northern parts of the Dominican Republic, the species is called “Mariguanita” (the meaning is uncertain) or “El Lagarto de Cola Rizada” (= curly-tailed lizard), whereas in the area around Baní, the name “Come Maíz” (= corn-eater) is used (Rey 2017; M. A. Landestoy, personal communication), but these names also are applied to other species of *Leiocephalus*. “Rana” (or, more rarely “Rano”), the Spanish word for frog, is widely used in the southern Dominican Republic for any small lizard (M. A. Landestoy, personal communication). In Haiti, lizards (including *Leiocephalus personatus*) usually are called “Mabuya” or “Sandolit,” both of which are used for any small lizard (M. A. Landestoy, personal communication).

In German (e.g., Fotolulu 2018; Tierdoku contributors, 2012; Uetz et al., 2017), the species is known as the Bunter Maskenleguan (= colorful masked iguana). This name is widely used in the European pet trade. German common names for 11 of the 12 currently recognized subspecies were given by Fotolulu (2018), with no subspecific epithet given for the nominate subspecies: *Leiocephalus personatus actites*, Nördlicher Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus agraulus*, Cordillera-Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus budeni*, Buden’s Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus elatoprosopon*, Tiburon-Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis*, Nordöstlicher Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus poikilometes*, Neiba-Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus pyrrholaemus*, Samaná-Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris*, Siete Hermanos-Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus socioensis*, Rio Soco-Maskenleguan; *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes*, Hato Mayor-Maskenleguan;

and *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis*, Cristôbal-Maskenleguan. Note the use of a circumflex (most frequently used in French) instead of an acute accent for the Spanish place-names (i.e., Samaná and Cristóbal).

In Danish (Midtgaard 2019), the species is known as Maskeleguan (= Masked Iguana), in French (Dollinger 2019) as L'iguane à queue coubée (= Tailed Iguana), and in Cyrillic (Sokolov 1988) as обыкновенная масковая игуана (= Ordinary Masked Iguana).

1. *Leiocephalus personatus personatus* Cope

Leiocephalus personatus Cope 1862:182. See species synonymy.

Leiocephalus trigeminatus Cope 1862:183. See species synonymy.

Leiocephalus semilineatus: Cochran 1928:54 ("part; not of Dunn").

Leiocephalus personatus personatus: Barbour 1935:120.

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by the combination of a solid black throat confluent with a black loreal-temporal-lateronuchal area; three to five dark transverse dorsal bars on the neck and shoulders; and a broad dorsal zone bounded by wide pale dorsolateral longitudinal lines (Schwartz 1967). Size is large (maximum SVL in males is 79 mm, maximum SVL in females is 62 mm); mean number of loreals (5.6) high; mean number of temporals (11.1) high; median head shields modally 5; frontoparietals modally 4 (Schwartz 1967).

2. *Leiocephalus personatus actites* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus actites Schwartz 1967:14. Type locality, "Sosúa, Puerto Plata Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, MCZ R-81088, an adult male collected by A. Schwartz and R. Thomas on 15 October 1963 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized by males with a combination of pale green throat, usually with a pair of transverse black lines at the level of the second and third chin shields; pale greenish ventral color; mask present but somewhat faded in older adults with a pair of creamy to yellow-orange broad vertical subocular bars which may in turn be partly or wholly confluent with a horizontal pale temporal bar and a postauricular bar; dorsal ground color from grayish-tan and sandy to practically black; dorsolateral longitudinal lines fairly prominent and bordered medially by a broad ill-defined darker area of the dorsal zone; and nuchal and scapular transverse bars absent in adults only at times indicated by a series of darker (dull brown, rather than dark brown or black) median crest scales (Schwartz 1967). Size is large (maximum SVL in males is 86 mm, maximum SVL in females is 61 mm); mean number of loreals (4.3) moderate; median head shields modally 4; frontoparietals modally 4; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (58.9%) than not (Schwartz 1967).

3. *Leiocephalus personatus agraulus* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus agraulus Schwartz 1967:21. Type locality, "1 mi. WSW Constanza, 4000 feet (1311 meters), La Vega Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, MCZ R-81090, an adult male collected by a "native collector" on 4 July 1963 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of a tan to brown middorsal zone with dirty tan dorsolateral lines; a dark blackish-brown head with white supraorbital stripes; sides of body pea-green flecked with orange; venter and upper surfaces of hindlimbs bright pea-green; and throat immaculate but blackish and with some bright orange on the chin (Schwartz 1967). Size is moderate (maximum

SVL in males is 74 mm, maximum SVL in females is 60 mm); mean number of loreals (4.5) moderate; median head shields modally 6; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (88.7%) than not (Schwartz 1967).

4. *Leiocephalus personatus budeni* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus budeni Schwartz 1967:19. Type locality, “12 km NE Jarabacoa, 2000 feet (656 meters), La Vega Province, República Dominicana.” Holotype, MCZ R-81089, an adult male collected by D. W. Buden and a “native collector” on 27 November 1964 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of a grayish-brown dorsal zone with prominent buffy dorsolateral stripes and one transverse nuchal and one transverse scapular bar; sides of body darker gray-brown with no green or brick-red scales; lateral stripes faintly pinkish; venter white with a faint greenish tinge; throat greenish with prominent dark brownish-gray smudges; and usually a transverse bar at the level of the second chin shield (Schwartz 1967). Size is small (maximum SVL in males is 66 mm, maximum SVL in females is 52 mm); mean number of loreals (4.0) low; median head shields modally 4; frontoparietals modally 4; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (59.4%) than not (Schwartz 1967).

5. *Leiocephalus personatus elattoprosopon* Gali, Schwartz, and Suarez

Leiocephalus personatus elattoprosopon Gali et al. 1988:19. Type locality, “ca. 1 km inland, basal portion of the Morne Dubois ‘peninsula,’ Dépt. de [sic] Sud, Haiti.” Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 197370, an adult male collected by “native collectors” on 20 July 1971 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a pale gray middorsal region with pale buff lateral stripes; ventral color pale green with very pale green (nearly white) spotting; mask present but restricted and usually dorsal to ear opening; chin and anterior throat dark gray rather than black; and sides of body red with pale gray-green centers on scales (Gali et al. 1988). Size is large (maximum SVL in males is 83 mm, maximum SVL in females is 60 mm); mean number of loreals (5.7) high; median head shields modally 5; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (95%) than not (Gali et al. 1988).

REMARK. Schwartz (1967) “questionably” assigned a single female specimen from Aquin, Département du Sud, Haiti, to *Leiocephalus personatus personatus* (Gali et al. 1988).

6. *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* Cochran

Leiocephalus personatus mentalis Cochran 1932:178. Type locality, “Jovéro, [El Seibo Province,] Dominican Republic.” Holotype, USNM 65772, an adult male collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott on 19 February 1923 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of a bright yellow and completely immaculate throat; mental scale dark brown; face mask extremely bold dark brown and prominent against brown to tan dorsal and head coloration; dorsolateral lines tan and fairly prominent to absent depending on the shade of dorsal coloration; and no nuchal or scapular transverse bars but median crest scales tipped with dark brown to black on the neck and shoulders giving a median series of dark dots (Schwartz 1967). Size is small (maximum SVL in males is 72 mm, maximum SVL in females is 58 mm); mean

number of loreals (4.0) low; median head shields modally 5; frontoparietals modally 5 (Schwartz 1967).

REMARK. This subspecies intergrades with *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes* (Schwartz 1971).

7. *Leiocephalus personatus poikilometes* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus poikilometes Schwartz 1969:82. Type locality, "10 km SE El Jorillo, 2050 feet (625 m), San Juan Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, USNM 165935, an adult male collected by R. K. Bobilin, J. K. Lewis, and A. Schwartz on 6 August 1968 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of a tan to grayish tan middorsal zone with cream dorsolateral lines; upper surface of head tan, suffused with dark brown and cream and with white supraorbital lines; sides of body bright orange flecked with green; venter and upper surfaces of hindlimbs bright pea-green; and throat immaculate but with some black clouding on chin followed by orange to rusty suffusion (Schwartz 1969). Size is moderate (maximum SVL in males is 73 mm, maximum SVL in females is 58 mm); mean number of loreals (3.7) low; median head shields modally 5; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (92.9%) than not (Schwartz 1969).

8. *Leiocephalus personatus pyrrholaemus* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus pyrrholaemus Schwartz 1971:178. Type locality, "9 km E Las Galeras, Samaná Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CM) 52287, an adult male collected by J. R. Dennis

and R. Thomas on 24 August 1969 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of a deep orange to greenish orange throat with labials and adjoining marginal scales deep golden orange, reddish orange, or dull orange; venter pale green; mental scale with large (rather than small) black to dark gray blotch; dark brown face mask bold and prominent against dorsal gray coloration; dorsolateral lines dark gray to absent; no nuchal or scapular transverse bars but median crest scales tipped with dark brown to black on neck and shoulders; mask extends behind ear opening rather than terminating before ear opening; a dark gray blotch on the sub- and infralabials [*fide* Schwartz 1971] and the next row or two of gular scales below the angle of the jaws; top of head at its most extreme solid black with scattered pale yellow flecks (Schwartz 1971). Size is moderate (maximum SVL in males is 76 mm, maximum SVL in females is 59 mm); mean number of loreals (3.8) low; median head scales modally 4; frontoparietals modally 3; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (87.9%) than not (Schwartz 1971).

9. *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* Cochran

Leiocephalus personatus scalaris Cochran 1932:181. Type locality, "Cap-Haïtien, [Département du Nord,] Haiti." Holotype, USNM 74054, an adult male collected by A. J. Poole on 3–6 March 1928 (not examined by author).

Leiocephalus personatus pulcherrimus Mertens 1939a:50. Type locality, "Monción 452 m H." (= 2 km S Monción, elevation 450 meters, Santiago Rodríguez Province, República Dominicana; Schwartz 1967). Holotype, Forschungsinstitut and Naturmuseum Senckenberg (SMF) 25757, an adult male collected by R. Mertens on 15 March 1939 (not examined by author). Synonymy *fide* Schwartz (1967).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of green to yellow-green venter and throat, the latter almost immaculate or with only a few dusky smudges usually not aligned into any discernible transverse bars; dorsal ground color varying from tan to dark brown, often flecked or mottled with yellow, cream or brick-red even in small individuals; dorsolateral lines faint in adults (both sexes); and mask prominent and outlined above by an orange canthal-supraocular-temporal line and below by two or three orange vertical subocular bars, which at times are continuous with an orange bar across the temporal region; nuchal and scapular bars faint or usually absent, their positions indicated by dark brown crest scale dots (Schwartz 1967). Size is large (maximum SVL in males is 82 mm, maximum SVL in females is 63 mm); mean number of loreals (3.9) low; median head shields modally 4; frontoparietals modally 5 (Schwartz 1967).

REMARK. This subspecies intergrades with *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes* (Schwartz 1967).

10. *Leiocephalus personatus socoensis* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus socoensis Gali and Schwartz 1982:177. Type locality, "25 km E San Pedro de Macorís, Río Cumayasa, La Romana Province [now San Pedro de Macorís Province], República Dominicana." Holotype, USNM 197371, an adult male collected by local collectors on 26 June 1975 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of tan to brown dorsum with dorsolateral stripes duff buffy; throats with black smudges anteriorly, chin black but throats of large males not spotted on immaculate chin; subocular region with a white stripe, with or without a single black slash; ventral ground color green to yellowish

green; and underside of tail bright orange and undersides of hindlimbs dull pea green (Gali and Schwartz 1982). Size is moderate (maximum SVL in males is 75 mm, maximum SVL in females is 59 mm); mean number of loreals (4.1) moderate; median head shields modally 4, frontoparietals modally 5; and supraorbital semicircles more often complete (80%) than not (Gali and Schwartz 1982).

11. *Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes* Schwartz

Leiocephalus personatus tarachodes Schwartz 1967:11. Type locality, "6 km SE Nagua, María Trinidad Sánchez Province, República Dominicana." Holotype, MCZ R-81087, an adult male collected by A. Schwartz and R. Thomas on 26 October 1963 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of green or gray throat with two rather bold transverse lines composed of black smudges at the level of the fourth and sixth chin shields; mask present but not especially conspicuous because of dark brown head coloration, bordered below by two or three bright yellow to cream subocular and temporal spots; bright green ventral color; and dorsal ground color tan with transverse nuchal and scapular bars rarely present and usually reduced to a series of black median dots on the dorsal crest scales (Schwartz 1967). Size is moderate (maximum SVL in males is 75 mm, maximum SVL in females is 63 mm); mean number of loreals (3.8) low; median head shields modally 4; frontoparietals modally 4; and supraorbital semicircles more often incomplete (63.2%) than complete (Schwartz 1967).

REMARK. This subspecies intergrades with *Leiocephalus personatus scalaris* (Schwartz 1967) and with *Leiocephalus personatus mentalis* (Schwartz 1971).

12. *Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis* Mertens

Leiocephalus personatus trujilloensis Mertens 1939a:45. Type locality, “Küste am Deutsch-Dominikanischen Tropenforschungs-Institut in Ciudad Trujillo, etwa 4 km westlich der Ozama-Mündung” (= coast at the German-Dominican Research Institute in Santo Domingo [Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic] about 4 km west of the mouth of the Ozama River). Holotype, Forschungsinstitut and Naturmuseum Senckenberg (SMF) 26213, an adult male collected by R. Mertens on 15 April 1939 (not examined by author).

DIAGNOSIS. This subspecies is characterized in males by a combination of greenish-orange throat with black smudges, confluent on sides of head and neck with a black mask; transverse neck bars reduced or absent; and a broad dark brown to rich reddish-brown dorsal zone, in large adult males not bordered by pale dorsolateral lines, and dotted with bright yellow (Schwartz 1967). Size is moderate (maximum SVL in males is 78 mm, maximum SVL in females is 60 mm); mean number of loreals (3.7) low; median head shields modally 4; frontoparietals modally 5 (Schwartz 1967).

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